

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the subject application prior to entry of this Amendment. By the Amendment herewith, Applicant clarifies independent claims 1, 15, 27, 30 and 33 to recite, in part, "the summons to the meeting includes an agenda of the conference call." Applicant also clarifies independent claim 32 to recite, in part, that "the summons to the meeting includes an agenda of the conference call." Support for the foregoing exists, for example, in claim 6 which is now cancelled without prejudice, and on page 2, lines 29-31 of specification.

Applicant also clarifies claims 1, 15, 27, 30, 32 and 33 to improve upon the wording and punctuation. Such clarifications are not made for reasons related to patentability and the full range of equivalents should remain intact.

Also, it is respectfully asserted that this Amendment places the application in condition for immediate allow and does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter and consider this Amendment.

Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-5 and 7-33 are pending. Of those claims, claims 1, 15, 27, 30, 32 and 33 remain independent.

In the outstanding final Office Action, the Patent Office rejects claims 1-4, 7-9, 13-16, 18-21, 24, 27 and 29-33 under 35 USC Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Kleier (US 2002/0009990). The Patent Office also rejects claims 10-12, 17, 22-23, 25-26 and 28 under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kleier in view of Wu (US Patent 6,275,575). Lastly, the Patent Office rejects 5-6 and 23-24 under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being obvious over Kleier.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the above rejections.

As noted above, the Examiner asserts that the independent claims lack of novelty in view of Kleier. Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, in the interest of advancing the prosecution of the subject application, subject matter from claim 6 is now recited in these claims. Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, does not at least disclose the recited feature that “an agenda of the conference call is given in the summons to the meeting.” Thus, all of Applicant’s independent claims are novel for at least this reason.

The Examiner appears to consider that this feature (prior claim 6) is obvious from the teaching of Kleier. Applicant respectfully disagrees for at least the following reasons.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the Examiner is misinterpreting the teaching of Kleier.

It is initially noted that Kleier concerns a distinctly different technical problem or objective than the claimed invention. For example, the cited art can be considered to provide for simultaneous dialing of two or more people that the caller wishes to communicate with to make it easier to establish a conference call between such people using standard informal telecommunication means (for informal see example lists of contacts in Figure 1). This simultaneous dialing as taught in Kleier establishes standard voice calls that are typically used for single person-to-person calls, as is well known in the art, i.e. a first person calls a second person, and the second person sees the number of the caller and has the option to accept or reject the telephone call (see Figure 7).

This simultaneous dialing is achieved by the caller creating a list of people/contacts that he wishes to call at the same time (see Figures 1-6 which illustrate this). This may be like creating an email/text message mailing list instead with telephone or other voice related contact numbers.

Paragraphs 28-30 provide examples of how this simultaneous dialing is performed. In particular, paragraph 28 recites “the numbers of a list which are to be called are transmitted to

the mobile radio network in order to enable a connection to the participants to be set up". Other examples are given in paragraphs 29 and 32. These all teach that a single caller creates a list of people to call, and that this list is used either by the caller's device or the mobile network to set up calls simultaneously to each of the intended recipients.

Applicant respectfully submits that this merely recites functionality of simultaneous dialing of multiple telephone numbers in a list using existing telephone networks and standard voice calls that can either be accepted or rejected.

In contrast, embodiments of Applicant's claimed invention are directed towards addressing a different inventive objective and are not obvious from the teaching of the cited art. For example, embodiments of Applicant's claimed invention are directed towards providing advantages in establishing meetings (rather than ease of informal communication between multiple parties) over conference calls. This is achieved, for example, by providing agenda information via the summons to the meeting communicated to recipients. The recipients can therefore be made aware of what the meeting is about before entering the meeting/conference call. See, all of Applicant's independent claims. For example, this may be achieved by embodiments of the claimed invention operating in the following manner:

- 1) *Summons to a meeting are drawn up* – The meeting is to be held over a conference call. This is more than just an "invitation" to a telephone call, as (in this step) the summons to the meeting are drawn up to include an agenda for the meeting to be held over the conference call. As Applicant has already discussed,

this “agenda” information feature is not disclosed by the teaching of the cited art.

- 2) *The summons are sent to the respective participants to partake in the conference call* – The summons is then sent to each of the desired participants by the convener. The summons that they receive then informs them that a conference call is to establish to hold a meeting, and the specific details (i.e. the agenda) of that meeting is therefore relayed to the participants upon receiving the summons. The participants for the meeting therefore are made aware of what is to be discussed before the conference call is established. This is more than just establishing an informal group telephone call (as per the cited art), but is intended to improve efficiency for those users who wish/need to hold a meeting over a telephone call with multiple participants. Applicant submits that this advantageous aspect is not discussed or made obvious by the cited art.
- 3) *Receiving calls from two or more of the participants* – The summons is then responded to by some of the participants and the conference call is established.

In summary, embodiments of Applicant’s claimed invention can provide for more than just an easier way of establishing an informal conference call, but can provide for an enhanced method of establishing a meeting over a telephone call, and participants may receive vital information regarding what is to be discussed in advance of the meeting beginning.

Kleier does not disclose or suggest such advantages as Kleier concerns an informal method of establishing communication between multiple parties, as described above. There is no reason to modify the teachings of Kleier in an attempt to arrive at Applicant’s claimed invention.

For completion, it is respectfully asserted that the addition of Wu does not cure the shortcomings of Kleier, and thus does not disclose or suggest Applicant’s claimed invention as recite in the independent claims.

Accordingly, as all independent claims are patentable, all remaining dependent claims also are patentable at least in view of their dependency from an allowable independent claim.

All issues having been addressed, the subject application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections. A Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions, a call to the undersigned attorney would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Wilkes Beninati March 1, 2010
Christine Wilkes Beninati Date
Reg. No.: 37,967

Customer No.: 29683
HARRINGTON & SMITH, ATTORNEYS AT LAW LLC Phone: (203) 925-9400
4 Research Drive Facsimile: (203) 944-0245
Shelton, CT 06484-6212

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J. Droniak 3-1-10
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